

THIRUKKURAL EXPRESS



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Thiruvalluvar Era: 2055 Thai-21

C.E.:2024- February-4



Anna at Ilakkuvar's 55th Birthday celebration

Our Rising Sun

Born in a weaver's family

He created history by his highly sophisticated craftsmanship

On the loom of language!

Periyar E.V.R.,

The Socrates of India,

The Buddha of South India,

Gave the lantern of rationalism and

Anna spread the light through his speech and writing!

Thousands of words which were sleeping in the dictionaries

Rushed up to obey his command

To perform a parade of powerful utterances,

Astounding alliterations and amazing rhymes!

His oratory skills educated the masses,

Eradicated their false beliefs imposed in the garb of heritage,

Wiped out superstitions taught as ancestral pride!

Appearing as a bright sunrise

Waking up the Tamil who slept in the dark

He removed the slumber, the long sleep of

The down-trodden, who never knew,

The exploitation done in the name of God and religion!

Surely he is the rising Sun

Of a historical renaissance in our language and culture!

The silver-tongued orator

Ushered in a golden period for Tamil people!

Maraimalai Ilakkuvar

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Resisting the Hindi Menace

---Anna's speech in the Rajya Saba against the imposition of Hindi (May 1963)



The official Languages Bill, 1963, was introduced, because Article 343 of the Constitution stated categorically that the Official Language of the Union shall be Hindi after 1963. Being aware of the Passionate opposition towards such an arbitrary arrangement by the Non-Hindi States, this Bill tried to achieve a tenuous compromise by ruling that English may be also an official language until such time as Hindi could develop into an Official Language.

In a strong advocacy of the case for continuance of English as an official language instead of Hindi, Anna traces the history of the language problem. He refers to the apprehension mentioned by the Congressmen themselves during the discussions in the Constituent Assembly and points out that the language resolution in the Constituent Assembly was at best a compromise and therefore it is proper to do some rethinking on the subject.

Anna was prophetic when he stated in his speech, "In this problem, The DMK occupies only a very small place. It depends upon the future of this Bill whether the DMK is to occupy a greater sphere or occupy the same sphere." The overall attitude of the Congress Party to the language issue made that party very unpopular in Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu started seeing the DMK as a party that would fight to any extent, at any cost and undergo any suffering to resist the imposition of Hindi imperialism in Tamil Nadu. The mishandling of the language issue by the Congress Party and the language agitations of 1965 created an

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emotional awakening among the Tamil people and contributed to the electoral victories that DMK secured in the 1967 elections.

Anna: MADAM, while I was hearing the lucid explanation offered by the Home Minister, I was almost convinced of his ability at tight-rope walking. He has tried to present Bill as the most convenient measure that could be drafted under the present circumstances. He has also made it appear as harmless as possible. But permit me to say that after the clarification offered by the Home Minister here and elsewhere, I stand unconvinced.

I rise to oppose this Bill, conscious of course of the numerical factor – the political arithmetic working in this Assembly. But I think apart from political arithmetic, this august House will pay some attention to political ethics and democratic liberalism, for democracy does not merely mean majority rule. It means, fundamentally, also recognizing, sanctifying and safeguarding minority rights and even minority sentiments. That is why I think – even though I am almost alone or, if I may take my colleague Professor Ruthnaswamy along with me – I cannot find any other support in any part here.

The Home Minister has stated that we in the opposition strike at one another. This is a problem wherein everybody else strikes at me, and yet I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not present what I feel sincerely. Therefore I say that I am thoroughly dissatisfied with the present Bill.

I am dissatisfied with the present Bill because it does not satisfy that sentimental objection raised to Hindi being made the official language and that sentimental objection comes not from a small part of India but from the southern side of India as a whole. Of course, my Hon. Friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, wanted especially today to drive out English and, therefore, he was very harsh in presenting English; even the romantic Shakespearian characters like Romeo and Juliet were presented in a very harsh manner, but let me remind him that I am proud of Tamil and I am not as proud of English as I am of Tamil, and in my State, Tamil is the official language.

Mr Gupta's friend ought to have informed him that I make English speeches only here and in my State, I speak in Tamil. I speak and write in Tamil in my State. Though it is run by the

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Congress, as far as language is concerned, they have made Tamil the official language and they made Tamil also the medium of instruction in higher classes. I would very much like my friend Mr. Gupta, to influence his Government as I have to a certain extent influence my Government.

BHUPESH GUPTA: Sorry, I cannot.

Anna: I sympathise with his inability, but I would like to tell him that I plead for English, I speak for English not because I am enamoured of it, not because I think ought to be given a higher place than my own mother tongue, but because it is the most convenient tool, it is the most convenient medium which distributes advantages or disadvantages evenly. Very many arguments have been advanced to say that India has got to have a common language, and if that base is accepted, one of the Indian languages alone can become the common language. Nobody doubts it.

If India is a unitary State, this argument is logical. India is a federal State. Indian society is plural, our political system is composite and in a plural society and composite political system to plead for a single common language will, I think, create injustice unawares, create handicaps unawares to some section of the society. India is not a country. India consists of various ethnic groups, India consist of various language groups and India has been termed very correctly as a sub-continent, and that is why we are not able to find out that common working medium as far as an official language is concerned.

Even today, my Hon. Friends of the Congress would forgive me for saying that the Congress has presented and the Government has accepted two national anthems, Vande Mataram and Jana gana mana. Neither of these two national anthems is in the Hindi language. They come, just as my friend Mr. Gupta comes from Bengal. That shows that whatever be the claim that the Hon. Home minister makes that Hindi has progressed very much, how can I be compensated when I am told that Hindi is becoming progressive, when I have got a language five thousand years old and when I am not able to make that language the official language of India?

I will say that of all the languages, barring Sanskrit which has become a dead language, Tamil has a literary tradition that goes back to five thousand years. *I may tell, Madam Deputy Chairman, for the information of the house that the President is going over to our part of the country to release the English edition of the ancient Tamil work Tholkappiyam.* Tholkappiyam is a grammatical work written more than three thousand years ago. We pose such as inheritance. Let not my friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, feel that we are acting like some toadies and therefore we want English. No. he has stated that he pleads for Hindi and he wants Hindi to become the national language and official language, yet he did not attempt to learn Hindi and speak in Hindi. [Only a portion of the speech given]

[The translation of Tholkappiyam which was planned to be released by the President of India mentioned by Anna is our Ilakkuvanar's work. Some of his well-wishers arranged the function during the visit of the President. But Dr. Ilakkuvanar did not agree for this function. As a rule outsider's name should not be mentioned in the Parliament. .See, the love and affection of Anna, showered on Ilakkuvanar, which forced him, to mention his magnificent work of the Translation of Tholkappiyam in English.].



Anna, Karumuththu Thiyagarajan and Ilakkuvanar



Questions and Answers in Thirukkural

: Thirukkural Dr. R. Prabhakaran

67.5 Firmness in Action

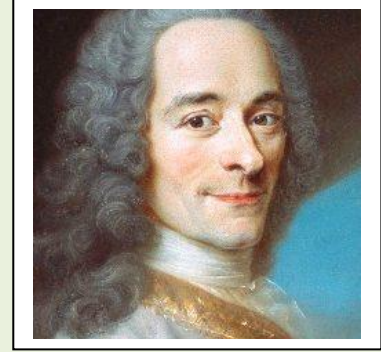
(67.5 வினைத்திட்டம்)

Question:

Is it acceptable to judge a person by his size?

Answer:

Do not despise anyone by his size, for there are people like the linchpin of a rolling car.



Voltaire

(Couplet – 667)

உருவுகண்டு எள்ளாமை வேண்டும் உருள்பெருந்தேர்க்கு
அச்சாணி அன்னார் உடைத்து.

(குறள் – 667)

Explanation:

It is definitely not acceptable to judge a person by his size. Although a short physique has always been perceived as a negative trait in humans, a person's height has nothing to do with his abilities. History provides us with examples of individuals who were small in their stature but achieved phenomenal success in their chosen fields.

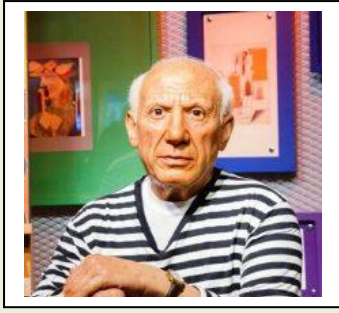
Voltaire was a French writer, historian, and philosopher famous for his wit, his criticism of Christianity—especially the Roman Catholic Church—and slavery, as well as his advocacy of freedom of speech, religion, and separation of church and state. His writings were very influential during the American and French revolutions. His height was 5 ft 3 inches only.

The Spanish painter and sculptor Pablo Picasso was only 5ft.

4 inches tall. He used his paintbrush to work wonders. Picasso

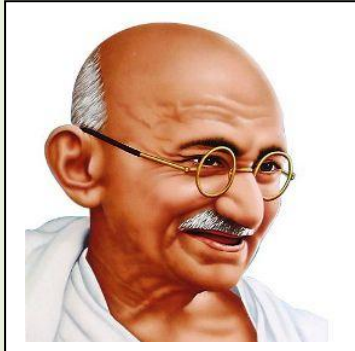
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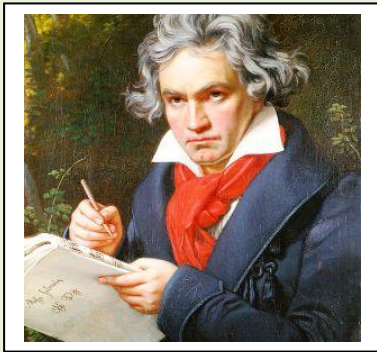


Pablo Picasso

created many incredible pieces of art. He has to his credit some of the best works of the 20th century. He is also known for the creation of some of the finest sculptures of this period. He also co-founded the artistic movement of Cubism in France in 1907. With a short stature and exceptional aesthetic skills, Picasso successfully found a place for himself among famous people across the globe.

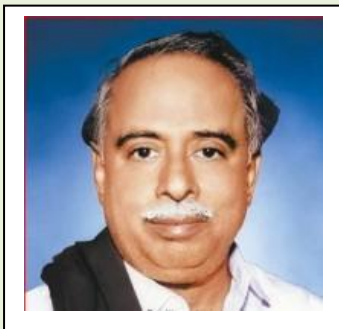


Mahatma Gandhi was only 5ft. 5 inches in height. He was the architect of India's independence movement. He dedicated his life to the Indian freedom struggle and won the admiration of Indians, earning him the title 'Father of the Nation.' He used nonviolence as his weapon to fight against British rule. His nonviolent approach was later adopted by Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela in their struggles for civil rights.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

Ludwig Van Beethoven, the German composer and pianist, was only 5 feet tall. 3 inches tall. Napoleon Bonaparte was only 5ft. 5 inches tall. One of the former Prime Ministers of India, Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri, was only 5 ft. 1 inch in height. The legendary leader of Tamil Nadu, Mr. C. N. Annadurai, was only five ft. tall. History has many more examples of others who were extraordinarily talented and accomplished remarkable things despite their short stature. Therefore, one should not be judged by one's size. As Valluvar says in Couplet 677, although the linchpin is small in size compared to the car, it serves a critical function in keeping the wheel of a big vehicle in place.



67.6 Firmness in Action

(67.6 வினைத்திட்டம்)

Question:

How to execute an action that has already been decided?

Answer:

Having decided on an action that has been clearly
thought out, act without delay and wavering.

(Couplet – 668)

கலங்காது கண்ட வினைக்கண் துளங்காது

தூக்கங் கடிந்து செயல்.

(குறள் – 668)

Explanation:

A decision must be reached after deep deliberation and careful consideration of all factors. Once a decision is reached, it should be executed without hesitation, procrastination, or dilatoriness.

67.7 Firmness in Action

(67.7 வினைத்திட்டம்)

Question:

What to do if we encounter difficulties while doing something?

Answer:

Despite excessive hardships, one must do with
firmness the deeds that bring delight in the end.

(Couplet – 669)

துன்பம் உறவரினும் செய்க துணிவாற்றி

இன்பம் பயக்கும் வினை.

(குறள் – 669)

Explanation:

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If what we are doing is worthwhile and likely to give us happiness, we should do it despite all hardships. Many successful people have endured major difficulties and finally succeeded and found happiness and satisfaction. History has several examples of people undaunted by adversities and marched towards success. The following paragraphs provide examples of three people who became successful despite adverse circumstances. Two of them are currently alive, and one of them recently passed away.



J. K. Rowling, the famous author of the Harry Potter

There was a young woman in the UK. Her ambition was to become a successful writer. Early in her life, she encountered many difficulties. Her mother suffered from multiple sclerosis and died. She had a strained relationship with her father. She was abused by her husband. Her marriage ended in divorce in three short years. She was a jobless single mother living like a homeless person. At one point, she thought she was the biggest failure. She was determined and overcame her difficulties, and became a successful author.

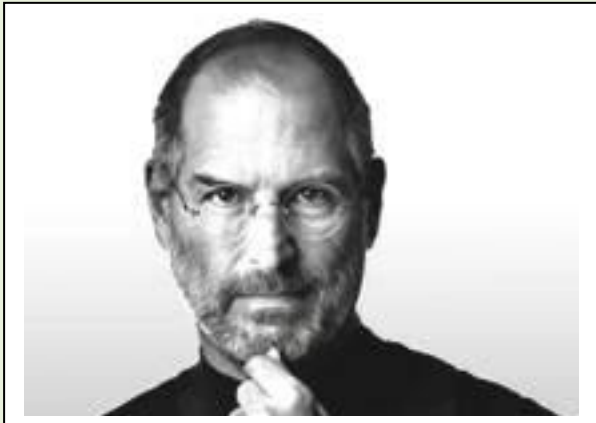
Her books sold over 500 million copies, were translated into at least seventy languages, and spawned a global media franchise, including films and video games. She is now a celebrity, a billionaire, and a philanthropist. She is none other than J. K. Rowling, the famous author of the Harry Potter seven-volume children's fantasy series.

A young black boy wanted to play basketball on his school team. At first, the basketball coach did not consider him good enough for the team because he did not meet the height requirement. But the young man was persistent in his goal of becoming a basketball player. Later, he did play in the National Basketball Association's major league teams in the USA. In his career, he lost 300 games. On several occasions, when he was trusted to make the game-winning shot, he missed. He failed over and over in his life as a basketball player. But

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despite all these failures, he became one of the greatest basketball players of all time because of his invincible motivation. That boy is none other than the famous basketball player Michael Jordan.



Steve Jobs, the founder, President, and CEO of Apple, Inc.

In the 1970s, a young man started a computer company in his garage. His computer was so successful that his company became very successful in a few short years and was listed on the stock market. He became the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of his successful company. After a few years, during the company's downturn, the young man who was the CEO was fired from the company he founded. Undeterred by his termination, motivated by his entrepreneurial instinct, he started two other companies which were very successful and got the attention of the digital market. In the meantime, the original company he founded continued to do poorly. The Board of Directors decided that the founder was the only one who could salvage the company, introduce new technological innovations, and revive the company.

They appointed him as the CEO again. The young man became the turnaround artist, and the company reached its pinnacle of success with a series of innovative products that revolutionized the digital products marketplace. The young innovator and marketing genius was none other than Steve Jobs, the founder, President, and CEO of Apple, Inc.